

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the last Office Action herein, which action was dated July 29, 2003, the Examiner finally rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 9-11, inclusive, and 13-15, inclusive, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,289,665 to Higgins; allowed claims 8, 12, 16 and 17; and indicated the allowability of claims 3 and 4.

In the Specification, there are no changes.

In the Claims, claims 1, 2, 7, 9-11, inclusive, and 13-15, inclusive, are cancelled without prejudice. Claim 3 is herein currently amended to correct a typographical error noted by the Examiner, and claim 4 is retained as an original claim, which is original except with respect to changes introduced by Amendment into its parent claim 3. Claims 8, 12, 16 and 17, the allowed claims, are retained in this case as previously presented claims with no introduced changes.

With entry of this Amendment, all claims now remaining in the case, namely, claims 3, 4, 12, 16 and 17 are believed to be in conditions now for the issuance of a formal notice of allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any

additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

Customer Number

23855

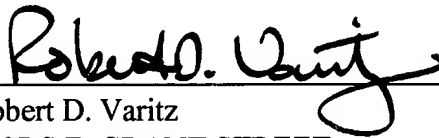
Respectfully Submitted,

ROBERT D. VARITZ, P.C.

Registration No: 31436

Telephone: 503-720-1983

Facsimile: 503-233-7730



Robert D. Varitz

2007 S.E. GRANT STREET

Portland, Oregon 97214

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

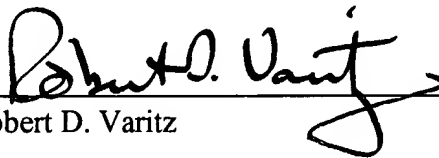
"Express Mail" Mailing Label No.

Date of Deposit - October 20, 2003

EL 977166978US

I hereby certify that the attached Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450



Robert D. Varitz